

BROADWOODWIDGER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1944.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1944.

Vital Statistics.

<u>Population</u>	2112.	Last year	2183.
<u>Live births</u>	Male 18 Female 18 Total 36		
	Legitimate 18 Illegitimate 4		Total births 41.
	Birth Rate 19.4 per 1000 resident population.		
	England and Wales 17.6.		
	Still Births 3.		
	Still birth rate 68. per 1000 live and still births.		
<u>Deaths</u>	Males 15. Females 14. Total 29.		
	Death rate 13.7 per 1000 population.		
	England and Wales 11.6.		
	Deaths of infants under 1 year 3.		
	Death rate 73 per 1000 live births.		

Table of Causes of Death.

Tuberculosis	1.
Cancer	1.
Cerebral haemorrhage	5.
Heart disease	11.
Diseases of lungs	5.
Violent Causes	3.
Other Causes	3.

Infectious Diseases.

The following infectious diseases were notified by practitioners.

Scarlet fever	5 Cases.
Erysipelas	1 "
Measles	1 "
Whooping Cough	10 "
Chicken Pox	2 "

The Scarlet fever cases all occurred at a boys private school.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Much remains to be done in immunising the pre school children. The response from the school children is considered satisfactory. At the close of the year 34 per cent of pre school children and 79 per cent of school children had been adequately protected.

Tuberculosis.

Four new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified and at the end of the year 8 cases remained on the register. One death was recorded from the disease.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

E.D. Allen-Price.

M.D. (State Medicine) D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit an abridged report for the year 1944.

Housing.

The four houses allocated to your district under the Ministry of Health War-time Agricultural Housing Programme, were completed during the year. The two houses situated at Ivy House, Broadwood, have been occupied and the Council are fortunate in their selection of two excellent tenants. The two cottages at Brazacott, North Petherwin, were not occupied on the 31st. December.

Both pairs of houses rely on wells for their water supply and the drainage is by means of septic tanks.

The supply of water in the well at Ivy House would appear to be ample but I fear that the supply of water from the well at Brazacott will not be sufficient for the needs of the occupants in a dry summer.

The building of these four cottages has been carried out under difficulties, not the least of which being that the firm of Contractors passed into the hands of a Receiver early in the year.

Throughout, the Contractors have had trouble in obtaining suitable labour and the supervision the firm exercised over their labour left much to be desired. Work which should have been carried out by skilled craftsmen was executed by unskilled labour. Wood block floors were laid by a non-carpenter; in fact, by a man who had never before in his life laid a wood block. The plumbing was carried out by a non-plumber with no previous experience of plumbing work.

Since occupation, several minor defects have appeared in both pairs of cottages including parts of ceilings collapsing.

Before occupation, it was found that the ground floor rooms facing south were showing signs of dampness around the window heads. To obviate this, moulded and throated concrete hoods were provided to all ground floor windows on South elevation. This abated the dampness.

The Essential Works Order had to be applied to the building of these houses as a result of which the variation in price claim amounts to :-

Ivy House Cottages £384..11..2.

Brazacott Cottages £486.. 4..11.

Subject to final checking, the actual cost of building, excluding land, architect's and legal fees, amounts to :-

Ivy House Cottages £2436.. 3..0.

Brazacott Cottages £2552..10..2.

I sincerely hope that the Council will, when considering tenders for their first year Post War Housing Programme, consider only tenders submitted by firms of known repute in Devon and Cornwall.

New Houses.

No new houses were built by private enterprise during the year.

The first floor over the Carpenters Shop at Langdon was converted into a four-roomed flat and occupied during the year.

Plans for converting the Smithy at Langdon Cross into a dwelling house were approved but, as yet, the work has not started.

Housing Repairs.

There is still an acute shortage of masons in the district. That fact, together with time occupied with other duties, has resulted in few houses being inspected.

Four houses were repaired after informal notice. No Statutory Notices under the Housing Act, 1936, were served.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Council will be anxiously watching the progress of the North Devon Water Board Bill through Parliament and look forward, in the next few years, to the benefit of a piped supply of water in their district.

I would estimate that in the future some 75% of the occupied houses in your district can be supplied with water from the proposed Board. As will be seen from the following table of Rateable Values of properties in your district, the majority of these houses will be small farms and cottages :-

Under £10. R.V.

278 Agricultural dwellings	
240 Private dwellings 518.

£10. and under £25. R.V.

35 Agricultural dwellings	
11 Private dwellings 46.

£25. and under £50. R.V.

5 Private dwellings 5.
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Over £50. R.V.

3 Private dwellings 3.
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Total	<u>572.</u>
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The following samples of water for chemical and bacteriological examination were submitted to the Public Analyst :-

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|----------------------------|--|
| 1. Higher Rexton. | Water satisfactory except for action on lead piping. |
| 2. Box's Shop. | Spring pure. Well subject to surface contamination. |
| 3. Cole House, Werrington. | Unsatisfactory. |
| 4. Polapit Tamar. | Satisfactory. |

Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act, 1936 were served in cases Nos 1, 2 and 3.

MILK PRODUCTION.

During the year 6 new milk producers were registered.

In previous Annual Reports I have referred to the poor response of milk producers in the district to avail themselves of the benefits to be derived from producing one of the Designated Milks, it is therefore pleasing to report that the first two producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk in your district have received their licences. They are Messrs. C. Hutchings and W.H.Paynter, both of North Petherwin Parish.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. A. Judd.

Sanitary Inspector.

